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L^t. de Lara's
Instruction
in
Illuminating

—
Seventh Edition

170 m. 106





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Proverbs viii:46, v 546



BEST

in the Lord with all thy heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path.

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MADAM,

 RRESPPECTIVE of the honor your Ladyship confers on me, by allowing the privilege of associating your name with this edition, a nobler motive which actuated your generous sanction, viz., "the high interest you feel in the revival of an obsolete but noble art," and of which you are at once its zealous Patroness, and its more than accomplished votary, are claims on my gratitude, which words scarcely can express, even in the hackneyed terms the humble sometimes venture to address to rank!—Appreciating, therefore, deeply the distinction you thus confer on one of your fellow-labourers in art,

Allow me,

MADAM,

To remain with profound respect,

Your Ladyship's devoted

and obliged servant,

D. LAURENT DE LARA.

3, Torrington Square, October, 1863.

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PREFACE TO THE SEVENTH EDITION.

TWO years sufficed to exhaust the sixth edition (the first shilling one) of my “Elementary Instruction on Illuminating,” in opposition, too, of a rival author; who was, however, more fortunate — for he was enabled to *illuminate* the world, with seven consecutive editions in as many months, and left the world for two years after in as much darkness as ever.—Far from envying him this inordinate success, I rest secure on my laurels, humble though they be.—Ten years were needed to bring forth my seventh edition, and here it is — as unpretending as ever — but fully understood, and understandable — no new theories erudite in print and bad in practice — no old ones, filched from musty manuscripts, alike impracticable as complicated, and displayed with learning and research, to bolster up repute and attach importance to very questionable utility; wholly unimportant to those who seek infor-

8 **Preface to the Seventh Edition.**

mation. I address the *few* and the *few* only, who will take practical hints, from a practical man, clothed in the plainest English. I do not trade on other men's brains, but endeavour to live by my own. Those who encourage the empiric in art must buy experience, and be contented with their shilling's worth. (?) I have added only some additional matter on colours and composition, as applied to illumination, which I hope the public may find useful—in other respects the seventh edition is like its predecessors—a claimant to public favour.

D. L.





PREFACE TO THE SIXTH EDITION.



THE steady revival of the “Art of Illuminating” during the last few years, and the rapid progress it has made amongst the educated classes, even since the fifth edition of this work was published in 1859 (all the copies of which are now sold), has induced me to republish it, under the present less expensive form, in order to keep pace with the many publications which, under the names of “Manuals,” “Primers,” “Treatises,” “Guides,” and “Instruction Books,” have lately been forced on the public notice, each pretending to give the desired information to the followers of this beautiful art, with more or less display of talent; but all tending towards the cultivation of a highly interesting pursuit, and proving that the nineteenth century may in future history be distinguished as having produced a “style” of its own, and identifying it with the happy and peaceful reign of “Victoria,”

indebted for the partial revival of this beautiful art, since the many publications from the lithographic press have engendered a corresponding taste with the public for its cultivation, which is daily increasing. That taste is now so manifest, and so general amongst the higher and middle classes, that it can no longer be considered as a mere "fashionable" pursuit, subject to the capricious ebb and flow of the tide of fashion, and again to be doomed to pass into oblivion. I believe a healthier motive is apparent in its cultivators; and the desire of re-instating it to the rank it once held amongst its sister arts is not unmixed with the holier emotions which a genuine religious feeling, arising from the daily contemplation of the divine truths of Holy Writ (as exhibited in the study of our finest missals), is capable of producing. In this respect, it presents itself to the devout mind of the novice as a labour of love, for the glorious poetry of the Bible offers such a singularly fertile source, to which the imagination and pencil may look for artistic inspiration.

The seductiveness of the art, too, on which the meanest capacity can employ itself, is another incentive, which will cause many to venture on so pleasing an occupation. The interesting question then arises, What probable results are likely to follow from this general revival of an obsolete art?

My answer is, "That modern civilisation will adapt it to our modern wants, and will gradually lay the foundation of forming a *new school*, identical with the nineteenth century." To attain this end, *conscientious* artists only can pave the road; *they* have it in their power to direct and guide the masses, and the public is sure to go with them.

The ILLUMINATING ART UNION OF LONDON, in its annual expositions, invites artists to exhibit their productions, by which others less gifted may be incited to follow their example. True Genius, however exalted, does not feel itself above instructing others, as long as through the medium of its productions the very best interests of the art are likely to be promoted. Gradually, these productions will develop new ideas, new resources, and features of originality, in addition to the improvements which modern civilisation and modern appliances necessarily suggest. Already three prizes have been awarded for original designs of the "Beatitudes"; and, as a first essay of a young Society, they are eminently creditable. The highest in the land, and, perhaps, the humblest also, are its members and supporters; and however the effort to increase its strength and its popularity might have been thwarted, by the lukewarmness of those professedly the most interested in the art, we owe it a debt of profound gratitude, for the real

good it has already achieved, and cheerfully join our wishes for its welfare and success in what it still hopes to accomplish.

A tendency to undermine the best interests of the art is, however, insidiously at work to misguide the public taste. The hired pen of the unprincipled and unskilful scribbler has been used by mere traders, to advertise *their own materials*, and bring into notice *worthless designs for illuminating*; the former without the slightest regard to their adaptability for the purposes of "missal painting," and the latter without the least pretence to artistic merit. Unscrupulous authors have been found to dictate "rules" for instruction, when, practically, they require *instruction* themselves, judging from the ignorance they display in their own pages. These very books, miscalled "Guides" and Outlines, facetiously named "Useful Models," have received, in their turn, fulsome praise in the pages of those, whose talents (to their shame be it written) as illuminators are unquestionable, and whose commendations, though valuable (?) in a *trading sense*, are sadly detrimental to the interests of those who seek for information and instruction.

It is, however, to be hoped that a discriminating public, whose taste in *Missal Painting* and *Illuminating* has become considerably enlightened and developed of late years, by the daily contemplation of, and

familiarity with, the works of our greatest masters, (owing to the great liberality displayed by the trustees of the British Museum, in throwing open, without reserve, for daily inspection, the glowing vellums contained in its various collections, together with the publication of such immortal works as the “Hours of Anna Brittanny” published in Paris, etc., etc.) will be enabled to discern the *useful* from the worthless, and separate the *gold* from the *dross*.





ON ILLUMINATION.



HE necessity for an "Elementary Instruction Book," to acquire the art of illuminating on vellum, for the use of those who are desirous of practising this beautiful and graceful accomplishment, has long since become imperative; particularly since, to my own knowledge, several handbooks have made their appearance, professedly with the object of affording instruction to the many amateur artists, who eagerly seek for such information in the first one that is presented to them by the bookseller; and it often happens, that such books, by their high sounding titles, deceive both the vendor and purchaser. The subsequent disappointment to the latter may be easily imagined, when, instead of the "instruction" anxiously looked for, he finds an elaborate treatise "*cut short*" on the plea "*of the necessary limits of the little work*," etc; and then only obtains snatches of information of extraordinary existing specimens to be

found in the various libraries of Europe, to which he can have *no* access; interlarded with "technical phrases," of which he can have *no* idea, and elaborate fragments of ornamentation, illustrative of the author's text, but without affording him the slightest clue what to do with them, or how, in his experience, he can apply them to a useful purpose. The disappointed amateur artist, therefore, turns away and feels himself sadly at a loss for some aid in his endeavour to pursue a most beautiful, and, at the same time, easy accomplishment, simply from the fact of unexplained difficulties having been thrown in his path; for though specimens of illuminations have from time to time been published, from which the student may have derived some slight advantage,—if only a superficial insight into style and taste,—yet they are universally of too elaborate a character to be of much utility to the beginner; and in the attempt to copy such specimens as Noel Humphreys has published in his "Illuminated Books of the Middle Ages," the pupil frequently must become embarrassed by the intricacy of the design; and not knowing any method *where* to commence or *how* to proceed, would, in attempting such specimens, make such signal failures, that in despair he would throw his work aside, and for ever abandon an art, which, simple and highly interesting in itself, would by him be considered at once as futile and impracticable.

The beauty of illuminated drawing consists chiefly in the *nicety* of execution, elaborate ornamental detail, and the mathematical precision with which ornaments are frequently repeated throughout the same design. The arrangement of colours requires also much judgment and taste, whilst the knowledge how to lay them on evenly and smoothly, requires the practical instruction of the teacher, without whom it is almost impossible to overcome these difficulties, or acquire proficiency, particularly in *raised gilding*, and the nicety which is required in using the agate, with which the ornamentations are engraved on matted gold or silver.

As an art, which originated at the remotest period of Christianity, and which originally was practised by very limited artistic intelligence, its first development was exceedingly simple, crude, and grotesque. When the rolled papyrus manuscripts were superseded by squares of parchment, in the form of our present books, the Scribes or Monks of the early Christian period were the first who were engaged in the writing of prayer-books or missals for the wealthier classes of people, who at that time were alone enabled to indulge in the luxury of a book; it is then we find the first germs of artistic composition displayed, in the initial letters which began to be conspicuously large and ornamental, fanciful, and sometimes intricately and ingeniously contrived, in contradis-

tinction to the older rolled manuscripts discovered in Herculaneum and Pompeii, in which no traces of ornamentation could be found. From this simple source of artistic development, we may contrast the productions of Giulio Clovio of a much later period, and his many and unknown contemporaries, who have astonished the world by productions, unequalled by anything that modern art could achieve. As I shall have occasion to speak of the progress of illuminating, and ornamental art, in a separate work about to be published, I merely hint here, at the commencement, that, for modern purposes of illumination, it would be highly pedantic to copy the earlier productions of missal painting, merely because they are antique, if in other respects they do not possess some artistic quality of graceful development both in outline and colouring, to which the modern artist may, with very good taste, give preference.

The object of this little work is not so much to enter into any detailed history of the progress of ornamental art, which may well become a separate and intricate study, as to smooth down the difficult path of the beginner, to unravel for him apparent mysteries in the art, to give him examples of practical designs to imitate from, suitable to his skill ; to point out to him clearly and unmistakeably such rules as, from my experience, I have found absolutely necessary to adopt, and which if studiously followed up will,

in a great measure, assist his first efforts and enhance his ultimate success and proficiency.

That which is most remarkable in those mediæval vellum-illuminations which have been preserved in the various collections of Europe, is the brilliancy of their colours, tints unsurpassed by anything that our modern contrivances can equal, or our colour-box approach. Specimens which have stood the test of a thousand years' duration, are as fresh and as brilliant as if they came newly from the artist's hands. Such *orange*, and such *greens*, and *purples*, as if directly snatched and stolen from the rainbow itself, or distilled from the prismatic rays of a benignant sun. The borders are actually studded with gems of colour which sparkle on the insects as if they were photographed from nature, colours as well as form. Drapery, damask, armoury, furs, and feathers, are all portrayed in such rich and gorgeous tints, that we may well doubt whether the secret of these colours has not died with those who used them centuries ago. Our water-colours were as brickdust at the side of them. In order somewhat to remedy the deficiency of our colours (as I found them) in comparison with what was desirable, the attempt has been made to manufacture them on a new principle, in order to preserve all the brightness of the chief tints predominant in illuminations ; and I am happy to say, that, after years of experience, I have entirely succeeded in

producing a set of colours suitable for the purposes of illumination; and I now beg to recommend to my pupils and readers those only called “Illuminating Colours.” Chemically speaking, they are manufactured on a totally distinct principle from other water-colours, and are made to answer all the purposes of illuminated drawing, affording perfect facility on the one hand in laying them on evenly and smoothly, and, on the other, saving a great deal of time and labour, and enhancing much the general effect of the design, in the *brilliancy* of the tints; this refers more particularly to their use when applied to vellum, which from its greasy surface is apt to reject the *usual water-colours*, whilst those of the illuminating-box are found perfectly to answer the purpose. I beg also to recommend the “water gold-size,” which in its application to the drawing, can be raised considerably above its surface, assuming all the appearance of being embossed, and can be *immediately* gilded over, which greatly expedites the process over that of any other gold varnish.*

That persons having a knowledge of drawing can and will make better illuminators than those who have not, there can be no doubt; and the more accomplished the artist, the better illuminator he will make is also obvious. Yet the art of illumination may be practised by persons who may be but in-

* *Vide* list of materials at the end of the book.

different artists in general design, and with a great deal of success ; whilst others, conversant with the highest principles of art, have frequently been found to be but very indifferent illuminators. The reason of this is apparent ; illuminating being for the most part a strictly mechanical art (though subject to artistic principles), any one possessed of natural gifts of taste, patience and perseverance, will, by studiously following out some slight mechanical contrivances, easily attain the first principles primarily necessary to copy any given outline however intricate ; not even excluding the human figure.

The ornamental arabesque scroll, from its primitive simplicity to the most elaborately finished foliage, interlaced initials, etc., are given in due succession for the pupil to copy ; by which means his hand becomes gradually trained to curval delineations, and his eyes get by degrees educated, till at last all angular tendency in his ornamentations is entirely eradicated. Once trained to that perfection, colouring and shading become comparatively easy, and a little instruction, with practice, will enable the hitherto uneducated artist to overcome almost every obstacle. The free-hand artist, on the other hand, relying on his capacity alone, and disregarding the mechanical contrivances at his command, not unfrequently stumbles over the easiest parts, pettishly condemns all such appliances, the neglect of which destroys the

uniformity and mathematical precision of his work, and finally he leaves off, disgusted with his ill success.

I would, therefore, recommend first of all to the pupil to provide himself with a box of Illuminating Colours, which can be obtained of the author, or at any of the author's agents, which also includes compasses, parallel rule, ruling-pen, agate, gold, etc., and other little but indispensable tools ; without which the student would be at a loss to proceed. Having procured these, I would then place this book in his hand, and, by following up the rules laid down here he will find himself, at least, enabled to make such progress, that, with the aid of one or two courses of instruction from a proper and experienced artist, he will completely overcome those difficulties which it would be vain to struggle against by himself. The manuscript room in the British Museum, to which, on a proper recommendation, access can be had, will finally give him an opportunity of studying the art more fully, and make him conversant with the immense store of mediæval treasures hoarded up there in endless variety and profusion.

Proverbs. ch. i. vers. vii fol.

Wise

fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.

For then shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.



GENERAL RULES.

GEGINNERS should not be too ambitious; let them be, therefore, contented to copy first, before attempting *original* designs,—it will give them experience and method. In the higher walks of art, copying is always resorted to; the painter has models, casts, and drapery to guide him, and Nature is his instructor; and let him be ever so original, he still imitates nature. Now, since there are no ornamentations in nature to guide our illuminating art-student, let him be content to copy, first, from those whose works are acceptable for their originality, their effect, and their classical beauty.

The more these are studied and copied from, the nearer the pupil will arrive at perfection, and may gradually become an original artist himself.

In commencing a subject, it is absolutely necessary first to arrange a rough design of the intended subject; to perfect a sketch, and then to make careful and correct tracings of the various parts (if the design is a subject of repetition), or the whole; to retrace them to the vellum, or Bristol board, with the red prepared paper, as faintly as is consistent with being able to see it. This is accomplished by placing the red paper between the tracing and the vellum, or drawing board, and following its outline rather briskly with a fine pointed H H H lead pencil, reversing the tracing when the ornament or border forms the counterpart of the design, which secures a perfect facsimile reversed; and, when completed, repairing any part which may be defective with the pencil, and perfecting the outline where it is uneven, or the scrollwork is broken or ungraceful. The beauty of illuminations is always best secured when the scroll-work runs gracefully smooth, not broken or angular, which gives it an awkward and unartistic appearance. In order to

prepare the pupil, I have given, in the illustrations, the arabesque scroll and curval lines to be drawn at the beginning in pencil only; and when *form* is thoroughly attained, let him re-execute it with a fine sable brush and carmine, which will give proper practice to use the brush effectually. I have adopted the arabesque scroll as the principle of all ornamental design; and I would advise the novice to practise it continually, on the same principle that exercises and scales are recommended in music to train the hand.

Referring back to the design, when the sketch is complete (which should always be as faint and delicate as possible, since it is no easy matter to erase a coarse outline from the vellum or cardboard by the usual mode of india-rubber), the process of colouring may then commence, by placing in the various compartments of the design the colours as previously arranged, somewhat in the following order, viz., first, all the blue throughout the drawing, or any portion of it intended for completion; then the vermillion, the orange, the purple, the green or yellow, and any other colour which may be in the design; next, the gold forming the outlines of the next ornamentations; and last of all, the shading of scrollwork, both gold and coloured, and also the shadings on the gold backgrounds; that being completed, you put white or gold arabesque

ornamentations on the ultramarine, carmine damask on the vermilions and orange, and Hooker's green or cobalt ornamentations on the emerald. After the whole has been thus far finished, the raised gold may be introduced, finishing the matted or dead gold with burnished ornamentations, dots, scrolls, arabesques, or any other design. This should be the last process of all, since the atmosphere is somewhat apt to deaden its brilliancy; and, therefore, it should be the concluding operation before the drawing is finally consigned to the frame or album. I must here also state, that if the vellum be somewhat soiled whilst the drawing proceeds (which every care should be taken to avoid, by always using a mat of blotting paper to rest the hand on), it may be rubbed over with a piece of stale bread, which will perfectly cleanse it. This process, however, must always be done before filling in the gold, silver, or platina, as it cannot be used *over* the gold with safety.

All straight lines, however short, should be drawn in with the ruling-pen, opening it wider or narrowing it, as the line is required to be thick or thin; if very thick, rule in *two* thin lines equally distant, and then fill up the intermediate space with the brush. A circle, or portion of a circle, is drawn with the bow-pen; and any portion of a curve is drawn in by the

Proverbiu[m] iii. v 32 & 35



curse of the Lord is in
the house of the wicked:
but he blesseth the habita-
tion of the just. ■■■■■

The wise shall inherit
glory: but shame shall be
the promotion of fools.



aid of the wooden scroll, which is fixed on the drawing in such a position, that its curve corresponds with the outline to be ruled. The nicety of the drawing depends entirely on the execution, and the carefulness with which the details are accomplished.





ON COLOURS.

XF the observations on Colours, advanced elsewhere, hold good, as to their brilliancy in the mediæval missals, the improvement which the modern manufacturer has been able to effect is not less apparent; for, although the mediæval productions are mostly painted in body colours, which are managed so exceedingly and wondrously skilfully, with touches so light and aërial, that to the beholder the dew-drops might almost seem capable of being gathered from the flowers, or the "mealy" dust brushed from off the wings of the butterfly—that furs and feathers would almost seem to yield to the touch, so nicely is the perception of their appearance preserved, that one may well look with amazement, not only at the marvellous tints themselves, which are preserved to this day in all the brilliancy of their pristine freshness and beauty, but also question as to

whether these effects were mostly attributable to the skill of the artist, or to the quality of the body colours themselves. Still, I am inclined to think, from general observation and historic tradition, that the *secret* of the chemical admixture of these pigments was as much the individual secret of the artist himself, as was his particular mode of executing his handiwork. For it is reliably known, that the great Rubens, and his predecessor Van Eyck, both Flemish artists, most assiduously studied chemistry in Germany before they applied themselves to painting; and that, to a great extent, the brilliancy of their colours was owing to their extensive knowledge of that science. If, therefore, the "science of chemistry" was considered so material a qualification in the mediæval painter, it is not at all improbable, that the illuminator of the period was actuated by the same motive to acquire this knowledge, by which only his works could be appreciated, as so much was depending on the quality of his colours, to produce those mysterious and almost miraculous effects, which the present age is still at a loss to imitate. I am strengthened in this assumption by the fact of having seen a curious old missal, in the library and museum of the Hague, a few years ago, attributed to Van Eyck (who is known, not only as an illustrious painter, but also as a skilful illuminator), in which is embodied an illumination representing a studio, where the scribe is assiduously engaged on his

work, whilst an assistant is seen *grinding materials on a stone slab*, and arranging them on a pallet, for the use of the artist.

With work on hand, and, perhaps, with commissions for years, is it too much to assume, that he would never incur the additional trouble of preparing his materials, were it not that the *secret* of his preparations was his motive for so doing? This secret, I contend, is lost to us, and with it the character of these body-colours, which our present ones do not equal. For instance, I ask the student and observer to compare the delicacy and permanency of the *white ornamentations* in the works of the older masters with what our present *Chinese white* will effect.

Whether, in the present day, we can again produce such glowing *scarlet* or brilliant *orange*, remains a matter of doubt; but enough has been done already to make us hope that much more may be expected, in proportion as the attention of chemical science is directed to the object, and the urgency of the illuminator furnishes suggestions. I have come, however to the conclusion, that with our present appliances, we may make a tolerably good shift; and I recommend, therefore, for general purposes of the art, the "ILLUMINATING CAKE COLOURS" as the best, and as the safest (particularly to place in the hands of the beginner). They are capable of being used with the greatest facility, and can be worked up, with the

happiest effect, in shading very minute ornamentations or miniature paintings; and it would require more than ordinary skill, and a vast amount of experience, to handle "Moist Colours" equally well. How the several writers on this art can recommend them, I am totally at a loss to imagine. One colour manufacturer, in his eagerness to go with the stream, has actually produced an illuminating box with *Powder Colours*. I advise the unlucky purchaser to lay them by, to tint wax-flowers with, since, for the purposes of illumination, they are totally useless. The *Cake Colours*, from my own experience, are the only means the illuminator has to rely on, in order to give a soft tone to his work; and when mixed with the *enamel white*, they form opaque tints, which even then can be used with greater facility than when compounded with *Moist Colours*.

Half a dozen only of the *Moist Colours* I recommend, in addition to the Cakes, to produce finishing effects in touching up, when all the subject has been completed, or to use wholly for deep-tinted fruits or flowers, such as cherries, currants, carnations, or hearts'-ease, in which the rich, moist, purple carmine will give the happiest and quickest effects. *Hooker's green, carmine, burnt carmine, purple, burnt sienna, and emerald green*, will be amply sufficient for this purpose. In conclusion, I therefore warn the purchaser not to be allured by the sounding title of an "ILLUMINATING

COLOUR-BOX," though highly-priced and costly fitted up, but to purchase that only which is likely and capable of answering his purpose.

I must give the present age credit for having left no means untried to supply the demand of suitable materials for the purposes of illuminating, in the hope of approaching, or even equalling, the effects displayed in the missals of the middle ages ; and, as these effects vary in the originals, owing to different theories pursued by different artists, so the present systems adopted by various and eminent manufacturers in their present *Illuminating Colours*, are apt also to produce *different results*. We have then before us—*Powder*, *Moist*, *Cake*, and recently again a new contrivance of *Liquid Colours*, produced by a firm of eminent repute, and which, from my own experience, are certainly as *bright* and *brilliant* as one would wish to see—each of these possesses merits useful in its own way, *provided the skill of the Artist has been able to seize on their adaptability*,—but placing each of these four different kinds of colours in four equally clever hands, there will be four distinct results ; thus, with our *present Moist* colours, we shall obtain (if we wish to imitate that) the coarsest results of the earlier productions of mediæval art, without their *brilliancy*, looking heavy, and wanting the *transparency* so charming in the better productions of the later Italian style. The *Powder* colours again look transparent, and

perhaps brilliant, but require great skill and *much* manipulation, to keep the shading soft, and prevent the *hard line*, where the colour unhappily was suffered prematurely to dry ; depth of tone, too, is out of the question. The *Liquid* colour possesses brilliancy of tint, a perfectly flat and even appearance like enamel, depth of tone, and is most useful for flat illuminations *where no shading is required*; transparency, however, according to my present impressions, is wanting. *Cake* colours, therefore, aided here and there by the adjuncts of moist or liquid colours, as the nature of the work in hand may suggest, are, in my opinion, the best medium through which the higher qualities of finish, and the general impression which those better and unapproachable specimens of our best models leave on our mind, can be attained.

Since brightness and effect are essentials in missal painting, all the fault must not be laid at the door of the colour-box, but frequently to the unskilful manner in which they are used. It is astonishing the difference which is perceptible in the drawings of one artist and another. I have frequently had occasion to ask my pupil where she obtained that orange or this vermillion. "It is from your colour-box," would be the reply, and whilst, in another instance, I might find fault with a colour for being dingy and impure, she might have been heard to answer, that it was my own colour she had used. The fact

is thus quite clear, that one artist has better skill to use the colours than another; and it requires a certain knowledge and method to use them properly. From my own experience, therefore, I will give explanations how each colour should be used, for what applies to one may be totally different in another. I shall, therefore, commence with—

The Ultramarine Blue,

WHICH is a metallic colour of recent invention, and chiefly manufactured in Germany. The best and purest is prepared in France, and varies considerably in price and quality. It forms one of the most essential colours in illuminated painting, giving tone and life to the whole, and forming a strong contrast against any other bright colour; it should, however, not be too predominant, but judiciously introduced. It is manufactured without any component ingredient which tends to affect its brightness, or its brilliant depth. In combination with *enamel white* it can be tempered to any shade, resembling the pure *ultramarine* in tint, but of a brighter and less greenish quality. It must be laid on very evenly, very rapidly, and after once being painted in and yet moist, a full brush must immediately be used, to let an additional quantity freely and fully drop in; when dry, it will be perfectly even and equally dispersed. Gold,

platina, or *enamel white* may form graceful ornaments over it, as also a deep black, which forms a rich contrast against the ultramarine ; particularly if a bright spot of orange or carnation, such as a dot, is introduced. The drawing of any ornamentation over it should be done very finely, and with the finest brush, so as to look delicate, artistic, and studiously neat. The best mode of shading it is not with black, but with deep carmine and a little gum arabic in solution ; it forms an intense purple, and is much more effective than black.

Vermilion.

THE vermilion, which at all times is difficult to obtain very bright, requires to be laid on evenly and not *too* thin ; it should not be allowed to dry before the intended space be completed, otherwise you obtain a sharp edge. The brush should be moderately full, but if too full, it will cause the colour to run towards one point, and form a dark spot. Once is sufficient to go over with the brush, if carmine ornamentations are intended to embellish it ; but when a bright red only is intended, it would be better to paint over twice, always taking care to let the first wash dry first, before applying the colour a second time. Carmine should always be used to shade or ornament it, and if in some instances a deeper contrast is de-

sirable, add a little burnt carmine to it, where the greatest amount of intensity is required. Never use black to effect the object.

Emerald Green

REQUIRES nearly the same treatment as vermillion, with a little more care in washing in a second time, since that colour is easily displaced by the second time going over it, which would give it an uneven appearance. The beauty of illuminated drawing is greatly increased by the solid and even appearance of the colours. If used faintly, it may be shaded and ornamented with cobalt; if used intensely, Hooker's green may be more effective; mixed with a little cobalt, it forms a bluish green, frequently introduced in drapery in the old missals. It is a useful and effective adjunct in scrollwork, but should not be used for the painting of natural leaves; they look then as if cut from bright green paper, instead of representing nature's variegated ornaments.

Cobalt Blue

Is used precisely as the emerald green. A thin and even wash is most essential in the first place, to be gradually tinted up with the same tint. A good deal of patience and manipulation is necessary to smooth

this most difficult colour into obedience. Young beginners will find it most irksome to handle, but it forms an agreeable variety amidst the other blues. It looks well for skies in tiny landscapes, and may be used for water, if copying the older missals, in which it will be seen that water is always blue. White ornamentations are used over it, to hide any defects.

Purple

Is not a permanent colour, but being in combination with another, it changes to a bluish tint; it is easily applied, and very useful and rich in contrast with orange, silver, or light colours in general. This colour has been much esteemed, as preferable to the made-purple of carmine and cobalt. It can be used for backgrounds if intensely laid on, two or three times over: it has almost the appearance of velvet, and may be used with advantage in every shade, and modified with a little burnt carmine to suit the taste of the artist.

Orange Chrome

Is not so bright as the red lead, but is permanent, and will not turn black. I have preserved all its brightness that was possible to obtain, and have,

therefore, entirely abandoned the more seductive red lead : it is used precisely as the vermilion.

Chrome Lemon.

REQUIRES no particular treatment ; it is both permanent and bright. We place it in the box to be occasionally used for illuminations, where an opaque colour is desirable. The gamboge can be used instead, when a transparent colour is preferable, and it will, in combination with prussian blue, form beautiful greens for foliage.

Carmine, plain, burnt, and purple,

Is one of the most useful colours in illuminations ; its richness, either diluted or not, gives life and brilliancy to the surrounding colours. In combination with enamel white, it makes a rich pink ; with cobalt, it forms a soft lilac ; and with burnt carmine, it produces a rich brown, and invariably adds to the general effect. Carmine is so generally useful, so easily applied, that the artist will soon discover its inestimable value.

Hooker's Green

Is equally useful, brilliant, and easily applied. It

adds intensity to the shading of all the greens. In combination with white, a beautiful middle tint is obtained, and may be used for ornamentations, scrollwork, etc.

Burnt Sienna

Is used with the greatest advantage in shading gold or silver (particularly the former), intensified with lamp-black. It is used in figure-drawing for the hair, eyebrows, etc. In combination with burnt carmine and lamp-black, it forms a rich brown for backgrounds, and touches up foliage to much advantage.

Lamp-black

FOR its intensity, is preferable to Indian ink, and is very effective for backgrounds. To add to its intensity, you may mix a little gum arabic with it, when required as a shadow on the same colour.

Middle Tints

OR opaque colours, which form so conspicuous a feature in the old missals, such as pink, salmon, gray, lilac, pale green, primrose, or pale blue, are severally produced, by the addition of *enamel white* with the

following colours : carmine, vermillion,* black, cobalt and carmine, Hooker's green, yellow and ultramarine, in such proportion as the tint requires to be high or faint ; but care must be taken in laying these on evenly to preserve an equal surface, which is easily displaced by going over it a second time.

Enamel White

FORMS a distinguished feature in illuminating ; its utility for various objects is apparent ; a small dot, the size of a pin's point, tells on the blue, red, pink, or lilac with most delicate effect. It adds, also, a brightness to the gold and on colours, when judiciously applied. The artist can extensively avail himself of it, and may modify its intensity as circumstances require. It forms a *hard enamel* over the gold size, which then may be painted over with gold or silver from the shell ; and when perfectly dry, may be burnished richly over with the agate, and forms a

* A contemporary has asserted, that "vermillion" and "white" should not be mixed ; he says : "The vermillion must not be mixed with white, or it will lose its brilliancy, and become a colour like brickdust." I know not what vermillion or white he used to induce him to come to this conclusion, but, after an experience of many years, I assert, that if the proper illuminating colours are used, they will, in combination, form that beautiful "*salmon tint*," so frequently to be found in the old missals.

bright gold or silver *raised* ornament. It aids him, also, to repair any damage or imperfection which may accidentally occur; and its general utility will soon be discoverable, when the student begins to advance in the art.

With respect to other colours, not enumerated here, they may be used as occasion requires; and those acquainted with water-colour painting, can apply them to the painting of flowers, landscapes, miniatures, etc., in the same manner as on drawing-board. The delicacy of vellum, however, is much better fitted for the purposes of painting than either ivory or paper; I need not add, that the most pleasing and the highest finished drawing may be successfully executed on it.

Platina and Silver.

I HAVE adopted platina, or aluminium, in preference to silver, since the two former retain their colour permanently, whilst the silver generally discolours after two or three weeks' exposure to the air. Those who prefer the more brilliant colour of bright silver, can, however, use it; gently washing it over with a soft new brush dipped into spirits of wine (which, when dry, forms a varnish over it), thus excluding atmospheric air, and thereby effectually preventing discolouration. Care should be taken that in the process

the silver be not removed, by the brush being *too dry* or *too roughly used*.

Green or Yellow Gold.

THE application of the green gold forms also a pleasing variety, amidst illuminations of yellow or matted gold, and gives a richness to the design, entirely unknown in the ancient missals, since its use at that period was not discovered. For this reason, many of my orthodox pupils have objected to use it, "because they could not find it in the ancient manuscripts;" but whilst I would encourage the study and close imitation of the *style* of the ancient masters, as far as artistic principles are concerned, I cannot object to the introduction of any improvement in *EFFECT*, which modern art may suggest, merely on the ground that our productions should be slavishly imitative of the old originals. For this reason, I also always discourage the introduction of quaint and grotesque figures, mis-shapen animals and monstrosities, imaginary flowers or fruits, which never had existence, and which merely indicate a want at the time of artistic knowledge of the real beauties which are to be found in the productions of nature, the want of which knowledge, taught them to supply us with the defective creations of their untutored imaginations. Of these, plenty of specimens are found in the earlier productions of the sixth and

seventh centuries; they are, however, gradually improved upon in the later productions. I prefer, therefore, the pleasing consistency of representing objects of accurate design, to such as, at the present moment, would incur the ridicule and just censure of the critic. Very little observation need be made in the use of either gold, silver or platina, since it is applied easily from the shell with a paint-brush and clean water to the vellum, and can be ornamented or burnished with the agate at pleasure, or be painted over with blue, white, or red scrollwork.

The Agate

Is used, with a little practice, to great advantage, and is capable of producing beautiful effects on the shell gold. A large field of gold would look rather monotonous; the agate is, therefore, employed for engraving, as it were, little ornaments over it, of various designs, which appear in bright contrast to the dead gold. A steady hand is required to make the scrollwork run smoothly and freely; a little dot, or a cluster of them, a stalk producing little flowers, and an indented rose-leaf or vine-leaf, with its arteries, can also successfully be produced. It were best, however, to practise this on a small scale first, before progressing with the drawing in too great a hurry. I entirely disagree with the use, under any

circumstances, of any kind of *imitation* or *liquid*, firstly, because its permanency is quite uncertain; secondly, it is too coarse and brassy in appearance; and lastly, the agate could not produce the delicate tracings on its surface, as when applied to the shell gold.





ON STYLE AND THE ARRANGEMENT OF COLOURS.

THE immense variety of styles adopted formerly in illuminations, makes it somewhat difficult to classify them in this little volume; and I will, therefore, confine myself to those which are the most popular and the most admired. We have the transparent border, with a profusion of scrollwork, foliage, fruits, flowers, and insects, relieved by trefoiled ornamentations in raised gold, and the blank spaces filled up with black filigree work, and which I perform simply with the lead pencil.* The colours to be arranged in such borders may be as varied as possible, in proportion as the design consists of small and numerous ornamentations. The contrast and variety cannot here be too profuse, so long as they are made with discretion. A predominance of too much blue, or red, or green, becomes tiresome to the eye; and, therefore, the greater number of varied tints introduced the better. Avoid, above all, ugly colours. No olive

* Or with one of Gillott's fine Lithographic Pens.

the same reason they object to *green* gold, or agate ornamentations; yet what can be more attractive than the yellow and bright green gold in combination, enriched by the artistic engravings of the agate? What more gorgeous to the eye than a display of graceful curves fantastically interwoven, enclosing highly-finished medallions, and thrown up by all the effects imagination and art can conjure up? Some of these specimens may be seen at my own gallery, and amongst them a rich specimen of a chess table which figured at the Great Exhibition in 1851, and which occupied me two years in painting. There are numerous other styles; and even modern art illuminations may be multiplied in an almost infinite variety; but the experience in such as are above alluded to, will give sufficient instruction, and regulate a classical and perfect taste, under whatever circumstances afterwards the pupil may be called upon to exercise his skill.

Within the last few weeks, I have designed and published a Series of Outlines, called the "Beauties of Shakespeare," illustrative of the poetical genius of the great bard, in which the attempt has been made to embody the poetical creations of the Poet in *vignette* illustrations of the text, interwoven with suitable ornamentations, light and aerial as the fleeting thoughts of the Poet himself, unencumbered by formal *square* borders, and avoiding all conventional ornamentations, which, strictly speaking, belong to sacred art.

Isaiah ch 55 v 6-7



¶¶¶

ne the Lord while he may
be found, call ye upon him
while he is near: Let the
wicked forsake his way, and
the unrighteous man his thoughts
and let him return unto the Lord
and he will have mercy upon him.



only. Six subjects from the "Tempest" form the first series, in which the songs of Ariel are surrounded by descriptive and pictorial illustrations of the text, and the choice sentiments of the chief personages in the play, such as "Prospero," "Ferdinand," and "Caliban," are duly illustrated throughout the ornamentations with pleasing and appropriate effect. Six more subjects from the "Merchant of Venice," which forms the second series, are treated similarly, and to this, the more dramatic description of the text, afforded a widely different opportunity in producing totally distinct effects, by which *sameness* was entirely avoided. Sufficient of ornament is, however, preserved to throw in harmony and healthy contrast of colour and gold, to keep it legitimately within the range of "illuminated illustrations." Whether the modern taste will encourage this attempt at innovation,—whether it will attract the sympathies of a new school of artists, or not,—or be condemned by the more severe and uncompromising antiquarian, experience and the success or failure of this publication will prove; if successful, the boundless wealth to be found in the pages of the illustrious dramatist, will afford ample material to follow up this publication by similar attempts in his other, and perhaps more popular plays.





ON COMPOSITION.

WHILST the student may profitably employ himself in attempting minor trifles — initials, copies of anything within his reach, or his own ideas; to acquire proficiency in the art, it is requisite to employ a master to direct his taste on the one hand, and to lead him on step by step to perfection, on the other. It would be highly essential to him to study the ancient missals, so as to enable him to distinguish the progress the art has made in various countries and in different ages. It is a field for deep research and study, to note the different styles adopted at different epochs, from the crude development of art of the fifth and sixth centuries, to the refined and exquisite productions of the Italian and Flemish schools of the fourteenth century, and again down to the inferior and flimsy style of Louis Quatorze. It is from the study of these, that his own ideas will be developed

and improved, and that his modern notions of beauty and effect may be advantageously thrown in, to produce original and classical productions, abandoning that which is absurd and meaningless, and substituting that which is rational, effective, and beautiful. The pedantic absurdity of retaining any class of ornamentation, solely because it was used in the early ages by our ancestral predecessors, on account of their notions of drawing and perspective being imperfect, is as rational, as it would be for the vigorous offspring of a lame parent to use crutches and insist on walking lamely ; and whilst we may justly admire the ingenuity of their efforts in producing the historic records of their skill, we may, at least, elevate our taste in improving on that which plainly bears the stamp of their imperfections. In composing a drawing, the student should select the style of a certain period, to which throughout he should strictly adhere, as the adoption of different styles in the same drawing is both inconsistent, and evinces bad taste ; to mix up the Gothic with the Louis Quatorze, or the Elizabethan with the Italian style, would simply be absurd. The writing of the text, the initial letters, the ornaments, costume, armory, etc., all should partake of the corresponding epoch. Illustrations also should be introduced according to the subject, and the ornamentations be also adapted to, and harmonize with, the whole. If, for instance, it was determined on to illuminate

the Creed or the Lord's Prayer, pictures might be introduced illustrative of the lives of the Saviour and the Apostles, historical and pictorial illustrations of the Christian creed, etc. If a secular subject from Milton, Shakespeare, or Byron, the same rule should be adopted. The "Lines on a Skull" from Byron might happily be illustrated with emblems of mortality, whilst the numerous episodes to be gleaned from the immortal pages of our great dramatist, Shakespeare, furnish an almost inexhaustible spring of truth and beauty, from which the young illuminator may draw his subjects for illustration; great liberty being allowed for embodying the imaginations of the poet with his own, and affording ample opportunities and material for the exercise of his inventive powers as an illustrator, thereby evincing a decided stamp of reflective genius. Above all, never attempt to illustrate a common-place subject, or defective and puerile poetry; it is not worth the pains of a single daub of colour.

In arranging a subject for illumination, I should first draw my attention to the initial letter at the head of the text. There are thousands of specimens in the British Museum; and many publications of alphabets are in existence, very useful for the beginner; these may be varied, or strictly copied at pleasure.* Colours

* I have prepared a variety of drawings of initial letters, and classical borders both on vellum and cardboard, with accompanying outlines of the same, very faintly lithographed, on supe-

may be changed, scrolls or foliage altered, taking care that alterations are judiciously made, and really *improve* the general effect. The initial letter being settled on (which should, if possible, in some manner bear on the subject-matter of the poem or episode), I would recommend next, to write the text in old English, or Church Text, each line being ruled-in equi-distant, and the capitals left blank, to be painted, in afterwards ; and where a word at the end of a line is so short as not to fill up close to the margin let the space be filled up with a small ornament in some colour ; where a word is to be prominent, write it in gold, or red, or a different colour to the general body of the text ; when the writing is completed, I would arrange the border, one side of which may be double the width of the other,

 fine drawing-boards which may be purchased for a trifling expense at most art repositories and booksellers. The illuminations may *also be purchased, or are lent on hire*, for the purposes of copying. These are executed under my direction and superintendence, by my numerous pupils, who now follow out the art as a lucrative profession. As the student will obtain better and more accurate ideas of copying from *drawings* than from *prints*, I have, at the suggestion of many of my friends, adopted this plan of supplying the amateur artist with an illuminated copy, and its *outline*, which he may *easily* fill up according to his own taste, or strictly follow the original : the encouragement this suggestion has received from the public has tended to confer a great boon on a worthy class of female artists, who have been zealous and successful in a beautiful branch of female accomplishment.

the bottom also wider than the top ; if pictures are to be introduced, sketch out a proper framework first for their reception. These arrangements form the groundwork of the drawing ; scrollwork may then be introduced, beginning at some corner, or springing from the framework of the intended picture ; when that is nicely arranged, the same scroll might be repeated, upwards or sideways by transferring the tracings ; the intervening spaces, if too naked, can be filled up with flowers, taking care that, in the reduction of the size of the flowers, they each shall preserve a relative proportion to the other, equal to the scale to which they are reduced ; this is very essential. If any insects are introduced, this rule should also be observed. It would look very ridiculous that a butterfly, fluttering over a rose, should be as large or larger than the rose itself, or that a caterpillar should assume the size of a conger eel in proportion to the size of a heart's ease introduced in the same drawing ; one's natural judgment will suggest such faults as absurd, and they should be avoided. If the border is to remain transparent, lighter ornamentations may be introduced to fill up the blanks ; and finally, all the white parts may be covered by thousands of little dots, in colour and gold, taking care that in size and distance they are all alike ; this last process can be effected either with the brush or fine steel pen, as best suited to the ability of the pupil ; if it should be de-

terminated on to fill up the blanks with a solid background of gold, the spaces need not be crowded too profusely with small details, since the filling up of the gold would become tedious. If solid, a white line of equal distance may be preserved round every object in the border: these lines should be drawn round carefully first (not too wide), and afterwards filled up solid. This white edging forms a very soft and pleasing appearance in the drawing. If the gold is closely to fill up against the scroll or flowers, you may throw a strong shadow under it on the gold, by which means the ornaments will appear to stand out in bold relief, and be very effective, taking care that the shadows are properly thrown on, and always according to the strict rules of drawing.* The solid part, instead of gold or silver, may also be made of a light tint, such as a pink, or light blue, or deep purple, or even black; in which case the same colours in

* Some eminent writer on "ornamental art" strongly objects to introduce "casting shadows" in ornamentations, or in other words bringing out objects in "relief,"—he argues, with some apparent plausibility, that if treading on a carpet, where flowers or scrollwork were introduced, he should be afraid of crushing the flowers, or stumbling over the ornamentations. I know not which to admire most, the pedantry of modern philosophy on art, or the actual beauty displayed in the "Old Missals," in which these charming "casting shadows" present such bewitching reality to the imagination. I leave the question to be answered by the untutored beholder, without venturing on any theory of my own.

deeper tint, with solution of gum arabic may be used, this will throw up the shadow more perfectly; the solid parts should then be scrolled over with close and fine ornamentations of permanent white or gold on the black background. As the varieties of effect are so very numerous, I think it best to leave the judgment of the pupil unfettered, to suggest the varieties himself, or to consult the various specimens in the manuscript room of the *British Museum*. A very effective mode of painting pictorial illustrations (known by the name of Cameo painting) may also be resorted to, viz., to draw a subject for illustration or a group of figures, all in *one* colour, including the background, say blue, the outlines are given on the side where the light falls, in gold; on the shaded side, with a deeper blue, the lights are gradually tinted over with gold, and the shadows shaded in with darker blue. This mode of introducing pictures was very prevalent in the Italian missals of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries; and I have seen them executed in every colour, with very good effect.





ON PREPARING THE VELLUM.

THE vellum (which should be the best Italian, and prepared from the kid), is of peculiarly fine and white texture, different from parchment both in substance and quality. I import it myself, and previously prepare it for the artist, so that both sides are equally good to receive the drawing upon. Yet there is always a preferable side, which can easily be distinguished : it is in reality the inside of the skin, and has the smoothest appearance. The price varies, according to the size, from 10s. to 3*l.* the skin. Parchment of course is much cheaper, and English vellum may also be had, but it does not possess the beautiful and even quality of Italian. To prepare it for drawing, it should be stretched on a board made of good deal ; the vellum should be cut *larger* all round than the board, by about its thickness (three-quarters of an inch), and sponged with a

perfectly clean sponge and water, on the side only which is to lay against the board. When moderately soaked, it should be laid between a fresh mangled napkin for about five minutes, to let the vellum get an equal moisture ; the board is then placed on the top, and the two corresponding sides are tightly folded over, and resting it on the side, you begin to nail from the centre, with small gimp-pins, till one side is completed, each pin to be about one inch and a half apart. You then do the same operation on the other side, previously stretching it *slightly* and *evenly* with the hand, and then again fixing the pin, from the centre till the second side be completed. You then again lay the board flat on the napkin, and fold the two ends over as before, and complete the stretching of the vellum in a similar manner. You will then have only the back of the drawing-board uncovered by the vellum. Let it gradually dry when it will lie perfectly smooth and unwrinkled ; and it is then ready to work upon.





ON TRACING AND TRANSFERRING.

The easiest mode is by affixing a piece of French tracing paper on the back of the drawing, and throwing it over the front ; begin with a fine-pointed **H H H** pencil, to draw an accurate outline of the whole thin, pale and delicate. Above all things, be *correct*; do not trace *more* than is necessary for your object, and avoid details, which may more easily be put in by the eye. *Too much* tracing often confuses. The *upper* and *inner* line of the hair, the eyebrows, the line of the nose, the upper line of each eyelid, the central line of the mouth, and the contour of the cheek and chin, is sufficient to give a correct tracing of a face ; if you trace more, in retracing it you will get confused. With ornaments the same rule applies ; trace only as much as will secure your object. When your tracing is com-

plete, unfasten it, and attach it by two spots of gum to the back of the drawing-board or vellum prepared to receive it, and placing the *red prepared* paper between it (with the prepared side towards the board or vellum), you trace over it with the same pencil (using a little pressure), and you then obtain a fine, thin, delicate and faint red tracing on the vellum. In this operation, in order to work cleanly, the following rules must be observed. You should use a fine ~~H H H~~ sharp-pointed pencil; you should not press hard to make the transfer *too red*, nor should your pencil-tracing in the first instance be otherwise than *light*; it becomes deeper when the pencil goes over it a second time, which avoids the necessity of lifting up the paper, to ascertain where you have or have not been over. A good, correct and delicate transfer makes it pleasurable to paint; a coarse deep red one gives the artist an infinite deal of trouble, and the drawing in this case will always look smeared and dirty, which with a little attention can easily be avoided. As the prepared red paper cannot always be easily obtained, it is much easier to prepare it yourself, which is done as follows: Purchase at the chemist's a quarter of a pound of *red French chalk*, scrape some with a table-knife on the thinnest *white* writing paper you may have handy, and with a piece of wadding rub it equally over the surface, taking care

that the other side is kept perfectly clean; no grease or water should be used in this operation. Should a pencil tracing be preferred, blacklead may be used instead of the chalk.





ON RAISED GOLD ORNAMENTATIONS.



HE raised gold ornaments, which form so brilliant a relief, amidst the gaiety and contrast of well-arranged colours and matted gold, are subjects which require a great deal of practice ; they should be used, therefore, sparingly at first, on account of their difficulty, and they should always be introduced with great judgment, since a profusion of bright ornamentations distracts the eye from the main subject, and becomes extremely vulgar, resembling much that *ginger bread* appearance of the French class of tinsel and emptiness ; whilst a moderate use of them, here and there, enriches the drawing, without their effect becoming tiresome and destructive to the general beauties of the drawing itself. They should, therefore, be limited to small raised dots, or tre-foiled leaves only, a line to form a bright shadow on the dead gold, or the arteries on a leaf of green gold. They may also form

a circle round a gem of ruby or emerald, representing the setting or mounting of real gold, and such other trifles as the subject may require. Water gold-size, for the purpose of producing these raised ornaments, is well calculated to effect this. The brown paste contained in the little vessel is used in a similar manner as a cake of water-colour, wetting it with a sable brush, till of sufficient consistency, and painting with it the desired ornament, and raising it by dropping freely sufficient paste on it, which, by its own gravity, will be properly rounded off, and becomes, when properly set, fit to receive the gold leaf. It stands then raised on the vellum, and may be increased *ad libitum* by dropping more and more on it till sufficiently high. In ten or fifteen minutes, at furthest, when sufficiently set, cut a piece of gold leaf (always a trifle larger than the object), and previously slightly breathing on it, with the warm breath, place the cut gold leaf on it, either with the point of a brush, or clean scissor's, or a pair of steel tongs made for the purpose. The gold, being thus placed on the top, should receive the warm breath again, and immediately it will adhere firmly to the moistened matter: leave it there for about one hour, when it will be properly hardened; after which, with a soft clean piece of wadding, rub it over, and the superfluous parts will loosen easily, while those intended to be gilded will remain. Should any part be imperfect, apply the

paste again as before over the imperfect part, going through the same process till complete. This, however, will not occur when the pupil acquires sufficient experience of the material with which he has to work. Another mode of raised gilding, and one which, in my opinion, is more expeditious and less troublesome, is effected by my "Liquid Gold Cement," which is used in a similar manner as the "Enamel White," and is partly composed of the same material, with some slight addition. You dip the brush in the bottle, and use it rather thinly at first, whilst delineating the ornamentation, and afterwards drop on it (whilst wet) as much of the same as the brush will hold, till sufficiently RAISED; in about half an hour, being properly set, PAINT over it, in either colour, gold or silver, and when quite dry and hard, let the same be burnished over GENTLY with the *crooked* agate, and the ornament will stand brightly out in the drawing; this mode I much prefer to the former. There is still another and better method, which I make use of in large and elaborate work, but which I only can communicate to my pupils personally, as it is a process that cannot possibly be imparted in any other manner than by personal superintendence and demonstration.



CONCLUSION.

KAVING given a detailed explanation of the mechanical means to be employed, sufficient for the student to practise the "beautiful art of missal painting," permit me to add a few words in conclusion, which I hope will not be thought superfluous. Deeming it essential to be as explicit as possible in the treatment to be adopted, I have not left a single subject unnoticed, which requires the attention of the learner. The illustrations I have been enabled to give are merely explanatory, but sufficient to help the pupil, with some of the leading features observable in the illuminations of the middle ages. For the purposes of research, no other than the very originals ought to be consulted, which lie within the reach of every one to examine, at the *British Museum*. In that splendid collection quite sufficient store will be found to furnish the student with ample means of research, without

the necessity of travelling on the continent, though, no doubt, a great many gems of art are to be found in the VATICAN, or the ROYAL LIBRARY AT PARIS. But in a collection so extensive as that in our own national Museum, or the libraries of Oxford and Cambridge, we can find sufficient to satisfy the most fastidious and ardent lover of art. It is essential for the student to study *originals*; and I have made it a practice to accompany my pupils at least half-a-dozen times to the manuscript rooms, during their course of instruction, for the purpose of calling the attention to what to him or her is essential to know, and to afford an opportunity of making such extracts as afterwards may usefully avail. They then can note down the progress of art from age to age, and the gradual development of decorative improvement, progressive with the advancement of civilization; yet, strange to say, though our own age claims to have reached that, in an eminent degree, the decorative art, as indeed arts in general, have not progressed in the same proportion; how to account for this, is, not that art has arrived at its climax of excellence; but that most of its followers of the present age have contented themselves by strictly admiring and *copying* the mediæval artist, instead of exerting their own powers to excel him.

Our age is too utilitarian. The artist now merely toils to *live*; while, formerly, his ambition took a higher

flight ; for then he laboured for *fame* and for *posterity*. The artist, however, who does not solely paint for *gain*, and who, from circumstances, is happily freed from the trammels of poverty, should strive to excel his predecessors. There is much room for improvement; modern inventions have sprung up; mechanical contrivances have advanced; new and interesting objects of natural productions have been brought within his reach, from the furthest limits of the habitable globe, to enrich the resources of his inventive powers, unknown to the antiquated monastic scribes, to whom we owe so much. Our advantages over them are obvious. Why, then, should we not excel them? Let it not be considered that this art is a mere mechanical amusement; a mere ingenious contrivance; a daub of colours and gold—showy, flimsy, and unmeaning. Though much of that exists in our modern decorations, it is highly desirable that it should not partake of that character; a little taste, a little poetry, gracefulness, order, and some display of general knowledge, of artistic combinations and principles, cannot fail to make our productions more valued and valuable. Give a tinge of some originality,—display an attempt of your own inventive powers, based upon acknowledged principles of beauty and effect, and your productions will soon reach an eminence of which art is ever capable! Though the age of romance and chivalry has gone by, and we

live now, strictly speaking, in that of sober reality, our artistic productions may at least show that such things have been, and may happily awaken a dream of what life *once* was. The study of combination and contrast of colours, affords him ample means to exercise his taste ; and the eye becomes instinctively capable of discerning that which is graceful and beautiful, and that which is not. But his task is more severe than that of the painter, inasmuch as the constant demand for new ideas and effects, is a continual drain upon his inventive powers ; the more these are exercised, the more original his productions, and the more likelihood there is of his excelling the mediæval artists.

It is only within the last fifteen years, that the art of illuminating has been newly revived : it has slumbered for nearly two centuries in total oblivion. I do not remember ever having seen an old missal in my younger days ; so little was it considered of importance to the artist ; yet what a store of information may be obtained from them ! What illustrations do they furnish of the progress of the human mind and of civilization ! What light do they throw on the manners, customs, and morals of bygone ages ! What links do they form in the gap of historical events, which otherwise would have been left in darkness for ever ! There is scarcely a page, but on which you may trace some interesting event connected

with the history of the period, its arts, its husbandry, its revels, its glories, or its shame !

The application of *lithography* for purposes of coloured printing or chromo-lithography in the last fifteen years, has done much to awaken the attention of the artist and the lovers of art to the treasures mouldering in our libraries and museums ; by its aid we have been enabled to obtain copies and specimens of illuminated printing, almost perfect facsimiles of the originals. It has stimulated the artist to pursue a new track for his operations ; it has infused a corresponding taste in the public mind for ornamental improvement, which has manifested itself in every branch of manufacture. The interior decorations of the House of Lords afford a striking proof. A century ago, when pig-tails and cocked hats were the fashion, such a gorgeous display of ornamental grandeur would not, and *could* not, have been suggested.

The religious associations which suggest themselves in the study of the old missals, is an element which has proved itself sufficiently powerful to our present generation, as to induce a spirit for its revival. The English as a nation (to its credit be it said) is a truly religious one. As a sacred art, then, it is alike reconcilable with their devotional habits on the one hand, and their indefatigable industry on the other, not to grudge some spare time, to its alluring attractiveness. English ladies, of the highest rank, even, have

each of their hours apportioned out to some useful object. This art now takes a distinguished place amongst them, and claims a great share of their solicitude, as it affords them calm and sacred thoughts to dwell upon, and ways that may be described, in the language of the Proverbs, as "ways of pleasantness and paths of peace," and that, which is anything but frivolous or worldly — divested from the *pictorial* and *symbolical* emblems of the Romish Church — the art has enough left of holy associations, to make it harmonise with the feelings of the Protestant profession of faith without being offensive. Those possessed of sterner religious scruples can fly to the secular illustration of the poets. Our literature, so rich and so eminently descriptive, opens a wide field for the followers of this art to indulge in, thus creating another field for the artist's genius equally imaginative and interesting. Tennyson's, Longfellow's, or Moore's pages are abundantly fertile in images of beauty, to single them out as *fittest* for the modern illuminator. All that is required (for the interest of the art) is the formation of a *good school*. THE ILLUMINATING ART UNION OF LONDON has made a laudable attempt to establish this; its annual exhibition opens the door and invites the public to co-operate, not so much by pecuniary support as by the aid of their contributions. Those who have the ability, and have already gained their laurels, should

set the example ; it will add much to their *popularity*, and not diminish one jot of that fame their talents have already achieved. TRUE ART should not be selfish. Monopoly in art, as in corn, affects the food for the mind, as in the latter, it affects that of the body. That society, happily, is not exclusive. Though supported by the highest in the land, it co-operates with the humblest in one common labour and one common object. *Rank* is forgotten, so long as their association with their fellow-labourers tends to humanize the masses, which, through the means of a *sacred art*, is so easily effected. That its labours may be successful, that its hopes may be realized, the strenuous efforts of its promoters, and their persevering exertions, are ample guarantees that the interest of those sanguine in its success is amply secured.

The International Exhibition of 1862 (notwithstanding the factious outcry against the unfortunate building, and its hapless Architect), was conspicuously successful, on account of the marked advance Industrial Art had made, not only in the produce of foreign Exhibitors, but mostly so in that of our English artizans, as compared with that of 1851 in Hyde Park. As far as English Industry and skill was concerned—it left its unmistakable traces behind, that since our first exhibition, when England entered the lists with foreign competitors, it had at the latter attained a miraculous improvement in *design*,

which no doubt was owing to a more extended and systematical culture, and to which, the numerous "Schools of Design" now established throughout the kingdom gave rise. This improvement was so perceptible by our neighbours, that even recently a celebrated and well known French statesman and political economist, has not scrupled to express his fears "that our English manufacturers had made such progress, that sooner or later they would displace the foreign producer, and monopolize the markets of the world!" And will it now be believed, that unquestionable as it is, that this improvement is entirely due to the more extended cultivation of *Ornamental Art* in this country—that the Royal Commissioners of 1862, with all their collective wisdom, with their enlarged views and former experience, and with the valuable aid of highly gifted men in all departments of Science to guide their councils, should have been short-sighted enough, peremptorily to refuse admission to any works of illumination, or decorative Art, on the meagre pretence that there was *no space* available for such works, which in 1851, however, were deemed of sufficient importance, and to have exercised such influence on Art manufactures in general, not only to admit them freely, but to award several first-class medals, to Artists, who then even enjoyed a European reputation! (Vide report of the Exhibition of 1851). All remonstrance which could have been

urged by me, against such suicidal an Act, was cut short by the curt and *red tape* reply—"that the Royal Commissioners having once determined on any point there was no appeal from their decision."—This closed a vexatious correspondence in December, 1861, and it was not till the following April, a short month previous to the opening of the world's fair at Kensington, that among the arrivals of some productions from Japan, one I particularly noticed to consist of an "Historical Biography," a specimen of curious Caligraphy, and embellished with artistic illuminated borders in gold and colours. It was then that I ventured to address an earnest protest against this unseemly partiality to a gentleman high in office, and well known for his well earned reputation, gained in connection with the success of the first exhibition, and to his honour, be it said, immediately on receipt of my letter, he placed himself in communication with the "National Board of Education," and had influence enough to reverse the decision which the Royal Commissioners previously had arrived at. *Space* was then granted (almost unlimited) for the reception of Missals and Modern Illuminations. I managed by great persuasion to induce the members of the "Illuminating Art Union of London," to send what specimens they hastily could gather together, and some fifty subjects of more or less merit were hurried to the building, and placed

without order, without classification, in the gallery next the great dome, amongst the Architectural designs—perhaps some thirty more from private sources, amongst which were specimens from Owen Jones, Audsley and others, were the joint and meagre contributions, which the International Exhibition of 1862 received within its walls. Unprepared and without any special object, there was not a single contributor who deserved or could lay claim to any attention from the thousands who daily visited the building. I believe the *wax dolls and sewing machines* gained more notoriety. Unhonoured and tacitly admitted, we were ignominiously buried in a corner — the whole collection as representing the illuminating talent of this country was a miserable failure — one solitary specimen, a beautiful little prayer book in the Austrian Court, a gem of high Art of modern Illumination was worth seeing, and worth more, as a work of Art, than all the combined skill displayed in the *corner* of the Architectural Gallery. Who was to blame for this egregious failure? Is it to be laid at the door of our own Artists, or to the mistaken judgment of those who had the nation's interest so much at heart and who deprived us for six months of the opportunity of preparing something specially for the occasion? Has illuminating done nothing for the manufactures of this country? Ask Bookbinders, Silkweavers, Architects, Sculptors, Decorators, and every handicraft

besides, in which decoration forms its chief ingredient—ask the “School of Design” whether the inspiration of its latent genius, was not derived from the impetus modern illumination has given to decorative Art in general. Is it a fair standard of what English skill might have accomplished, to judge it by the miserable refuse of stale bits of *tinsel* and *text-writing* which was exhibited there? No wonder that in all the elaborate reports which daily appeared in the “Times,” not a single line was penned to the Art Illuminations of 1862—it is to be hoped that the opportunity thus lost may not be fatal to the further development of an Art, which has and still exercises such beneficial influences on our Art manufactures and civilization.





ON OUTLINES.

N my first edition, in 1850, I suggested the publication of classical outline borders, which I only carried out in 1856, when my second edition made its appearance; the first part of six outlines, royal quarto, was then produced to try how far the public would appreciate their usefulness. The first attempt proved a decided failure; they remained unsold, because the uninitiated did not know how to apply them, having no model for their guidance. I then tried them with a small fragment, illuminated-in by hand, which, in all cases, forms a complete key as to the effect intended to be produced in the whole remaining border. This met with a decided success; the public eagerly purchased these partially illuminated outlines; and very seldom any plain subjects afterwards were asked for. The demand has ever since become so extensive, that upwards of four hundred different subjects have now been published, some forming complete works in themselves, such as the 119th Psalm (twenty-four subjects) published by Messrs.

Longman and Co.; and its companion, the "Sermon on the Mount," "The Beatitudes," etc., on the illumination of which a large staff of lady artists are always employed. My most anxious care was then directed as to the *choice of subjects*, but above all in the selection of the *designs* themselves. If, by an extensive sale, I found myself amply rewarded, I conscientiously felt also the importance, that the public should receive none but choice and classical models, from which they could study with advantage. I was less ambitious to furnish them with original ideas of my own, than to illustrate those various styles and periods of art, which would have a tendency to general improvement, and were likely to cause a more healthy taste in the beginner. I therefore carefully selected models from the best specimens in the libraries of Paris, Brussels, Heidelberg, and Amsterdam, besides those to be found in our own Museum, and the Bodleian library, Oxford, and which, with important alterations, I found adaptable for my object. I attempted to illustrate subjects from the *seventh* to the *fifteenth* century—from the *Byzantine, Anglo-Saxon, Flemish, and Italian schools*, which should form a complete grammar of ornamental art, from which the student might learn something better than to daub in a worthless or a meaningless design. I abandoned all pictorial illustrations (in the sacred subjects at all events) which

could in the slightest degree be considered as sectarian, or partaking of partiality for any particular religious denomination; all my aim was directed, that the ornamental border should be applicable to the subject and highly artistic, in order to be perfectly and usefully instructive. To pervert the taste, then, by producing decidedly ill-conceived ideas, in the shape of outlines, which any *sign-painter* might produce with equally good success, I conscientiously opposed. As a stepping-stone towards achieving better things my method only is defensible, as an attempt to awaken the taste of the beginner, which afterwards may tend to develop originality in him; how inexcusable, then, to place rubbish in his hand for the mere purposes of gain. I am sorry my unscrupulous imitators are differing from me; and I am more sorry that a man, whose genius as an illuminator is of European repute, should have been found *really capable* to endorse with his authoritative approval, the worthless productions of a *trading publisher* as "most useful models," and insert that statement in one of the most *valuable publications* on the art of illuminating hitherto published. To put the public on its guard, both as to the *malproductions* themselves, as well as to the *opinions* thus promulgated with so much appearance of honest "criticism," and industriously paraded forth in the trade-lists of the speculative publisher, has been my principal

motive for introducing this subject into the present volume ; as I feel too much interest in the pursuit, not to denounce the worthlessness of these publications, which can only tend to injure a beautiful art. I introduced my outlines with the deliberate object of directing the taste towards the development of a highly pleasing and instructive accomplishment, the interest of which is daily gaining ground with the public, and to lessen the difficulties which surround the illuminator as much as possible ; for this purpose I took away from him the responsibility of forming his design, for which his inexperience was not fitted. I left him enough to do, in *arranging* his colours and producing his *effects*. It was only when the *outline* was illuminated, that he could appreciate the beauties of the *design* ; and it is from that appreciation, that his own ideas would become sufficiently matured to *invent one* of his own. The effect of this truism was amply demonstrated in the fact, that one of my distinguished lady pupils, who for a year had practised on these examples, was successful enough two years ago to carry away the “first prize” for the best original design of the “Beatitudes,” awarded to her by the ILLUMINATING ART UNION OF LONDON ; on the merits of which Messrs. OWEN JONES and H. NOEL HUMPHRIES gave their valuable decision. *Had she studied from modern and meaningless models, her beautiful Italian border would never have been the result.*

LIST OF COLOURS.

THE following colours I have selected as the most necessary, and which may constitute a sufficient assortment for the artist :—

YELLOW . Pale Chrome, Orange Chrome, Gamboge, and occasionally good Cadmium.

GREENS . Hooker's, and Emerald.

RED . . Orange Vermilion, and pure Scarlet.

MADDERS . Rose and Pink Madders.

CARMINES. Carmine, Burnt Carmine, and Purple Carmine.

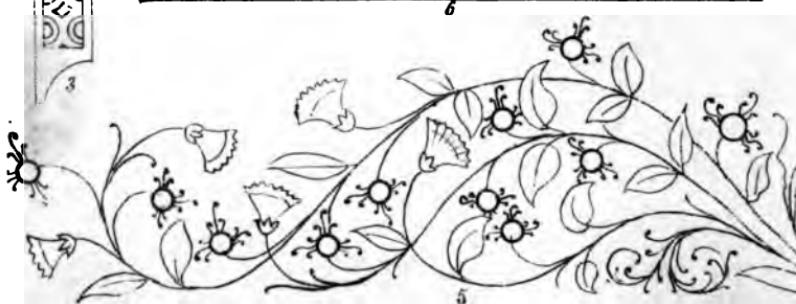
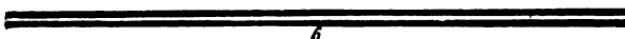
BROWNS . Burnt Sienna, Vandyke Brown, Dragon's Blood, Yellow Ochre.

BLUES . . Cobalt, French Ultra, Prussian Blue.

BLACK . . Lamp-black.

WHITE . . *Enamel White* only.

MOIST COLOURS FOR FLOWERS AND FRUITS.—
Hooker's Green, Emerald, Purple, Carmine, Burnt Carmine, Crimson Lake; and one or two more may be added, if occasion requires.





APPENDIX.

PLATE I.

FIG. 1,



THIN border, very frequently used in illuminating by the *Italians*; consisting of small blue and pink spaces, ornamented with white lacework over the flat ground.

FIG. 2,

Are specimens of various flowers, ornamentations, foliage, the arabesque scroll, etc., which are to be met with in the ancient manuscripts. To give anything like a variety, would fill a volume; to classify them would also be an endless task, since any contrivance to do so would be fruitless: my object being to give an insight to some of the *leading* features observable in the illuminations: these are sufficient for the beginner. To acquire an accurate idea, I must refer the student to the *British Museum*. I have given here outlines of subjects most frequently met with; these the student can fill up with colours according to his taste, varying them at pleasure; yet, in preference, he should endeavour to sketch them himself, since it is desirable that he should acquire proficiency in these trifles, for as they generally form small details, to relieve the solid parts,

Appendix.

and are intended to fill up blanks, they invariably require to be well executed.

FIG. 3,

Are compartments to be filled up by various solid colours over which the scrollwork or ornaments are applied, either in white, gold, or colours; when in red, it is called *damask-work*, the patterns of which can be varied in endless variety. Over the gold, engravings with the agate are highly effective, sometimes forming simple ornamentations, or representing embossed chasing.

FIG. 4,

Represents a portion of a scroll to be filled in by a solid colour, over which, after being properly shaded, fine threads of gold may be drawn, or thinly dotted in white. In making these or similar scrolls, care should be taken that they are gracefully drawn, and made to run *freely* throughout the design.

FIG. 5,

Illustrates fragments of curves with leaves or ornaments which must be ruled-in with the *ruling-pen*, by the aid of the wooden scroll, the scroll being placed on the pencil-tracing, where a portion of its curve corresponds with the intended design.

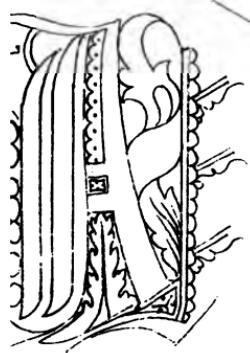
FIG. 6,

Are two straight lines ruled parallel and closely together, so as to show a white thread between.

PLATE II,

Is the initial letter O, copied from a woodcut. Though the general design is effective and pleasing, it is not accurately

PLATE 2



1

Proverbe. ch. i. verses. vi to ix.

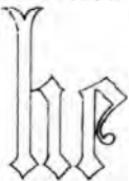


fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. □

My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother. □

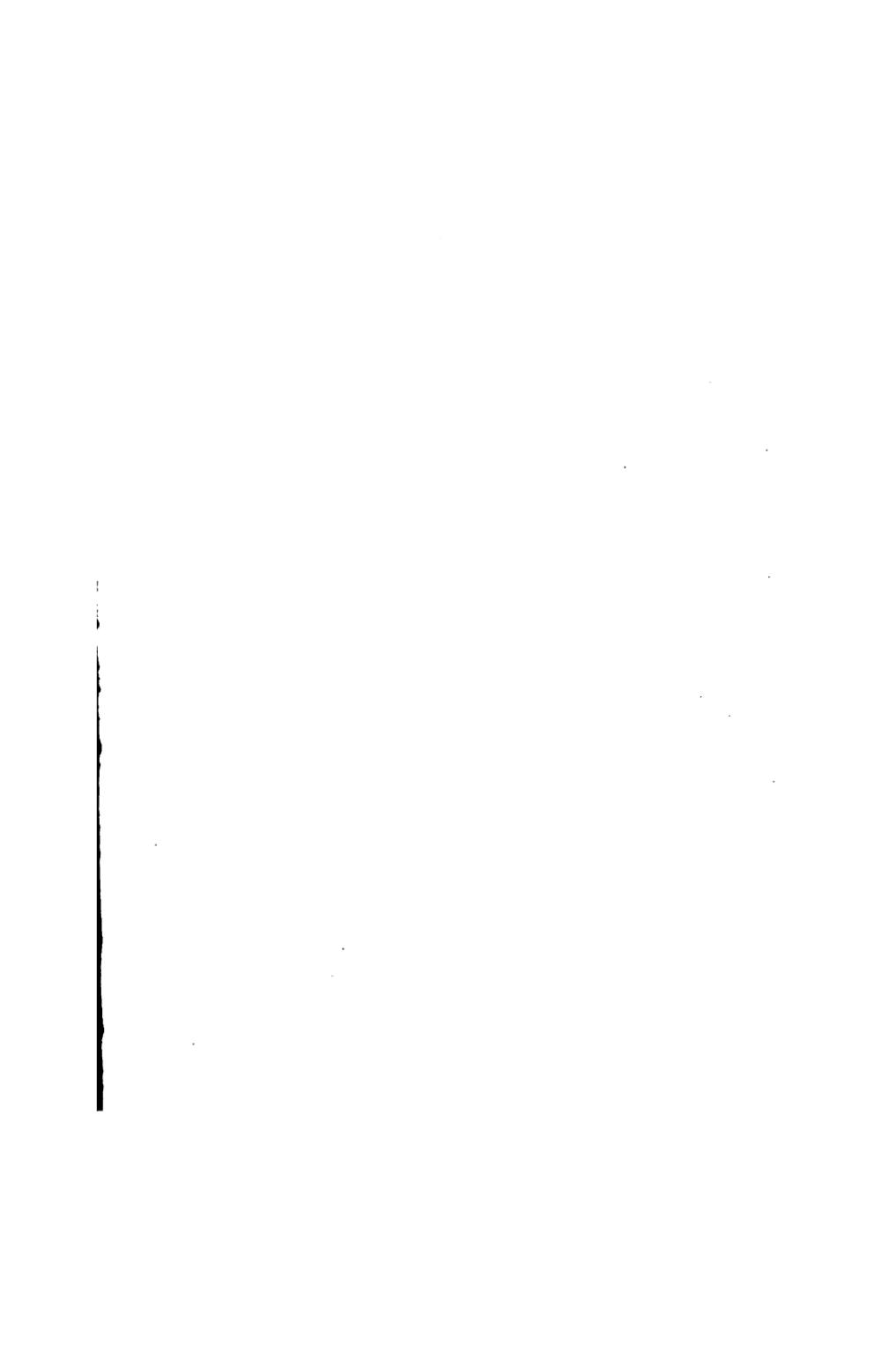
For then shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck. □

Proverbs ch iii, v 33 & 35



curse of the Lord is in
the house of the wicked:
but he blesseth the habita-
tion of the just. □

The wise shall inherit
glory: but shame shall be
the promotion of fools.



drawn ; whereas it might have been, had the designer used the tracing-paper. I have shown the defects in the outline, to illustrate a principle which should be always avoided, viz., disregard for the mechanical appliances, by means of repetition always at hand for the illuminator by using the red transfer paper.

This initial is very useful to copy frequently, since it will give freedom to the hand in producing graceful curves. The remaining figures on this plate are various initials, used at the head of texts ; they may be variously illuminated.

PLATE III,

Is an early specimen of *Byzantine* art, about the eighth century, the principle of the Irish school being here adopted, on which the acanthus foliage of the *Roman* style is superadded. Some gorgeous specimens of this style are in most of the European libraries ; but many valuable specimens of that period must have been lost, since the *Iconoclastic fanatics* destroyed so many thousands by the flames, from the end of the fifth to the seventh centuries.

PLATE IV,

Is a specimen of a style of illuminating much in use from the thirteenth century to the beginning of the fourteenth. Many and very varied specimens of this style are in almost every collection in European libraries. Sometimes the bands are alternately solid and transparent ; in others, the bands assume a lozenge-fashioned, undulated, or circular shape ; but another and more frequently adopted mode is to alternate them, tints, of *solid coloured bands*, keeping up strict regard as to complement of colour. The following order may be regarded as a lesson :—*Crimson, gold, ultramarine, and buff* may succeed each other. The ornamentations show best on them when relieved, by placing “casting shadows” under the flowers, scrolls, etc.

PLATE V,

Is an Italian border of the fourteenth century. The stems of the scrollwork may be, with good effect, painted in gold, and shaded up in burnt sienna, to imitate the bark of trees. Scrolls and foliage may be painted in this specimen in delicate tinted colours, such as greys, light blues, or pinks, softly shaded up, and ornamented with white or gold ornamentations, according to the circumstance of the tint selected. Flowers and leaves, of course, in their natural colours. Various, and always delicate tints for greens in leaves, are essentials in the old Italian border. The "back-ground" here is intended to be gold, though other tints may be substituted, so long as they are not introduced in the ornamentations.

PLATE VI,

Is a border, to be found in almost every contemporaneous school of the period—the French, the Flemish, the Italian, as well as English and Irish. The ornamentations are not so softly executed, nor is the outline as graceful as in the former. The back-ground is always transparent, containing, sometimes, small figured filigree work. A preponderance of one pervading colour is sometimes its characteristic; but too much similarity in tint should be carefully avoided.

PLATE VII,

Is the same style precisely as above, with the peculiarity of the ornamentation springing from the immediate border surrounding the text. The grotesque animal, twining itself in a curious manner, is also typical of the illuminations of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

Proverbs ch:iii, v 5-6



TRUST

in the Lord with all thy heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path.



Psalm 118

**PAISE**

the **L**ord, all ye nations
praise him, all ye people.
For his merciful kind-
ness is great toward us;
and the truth of the **L**ord
Lendureth for ever.

Praise ye the **L**ord.

Isaiah ch 55 v 6-7

**P**ro the Lord while he may
be found, call upon him
while he is near: Let the
wicked forsake his way, and
the unrighteous man his thoughts
and let him return unto the Lord
and he will have mercy upon him.



PLATE VIII.

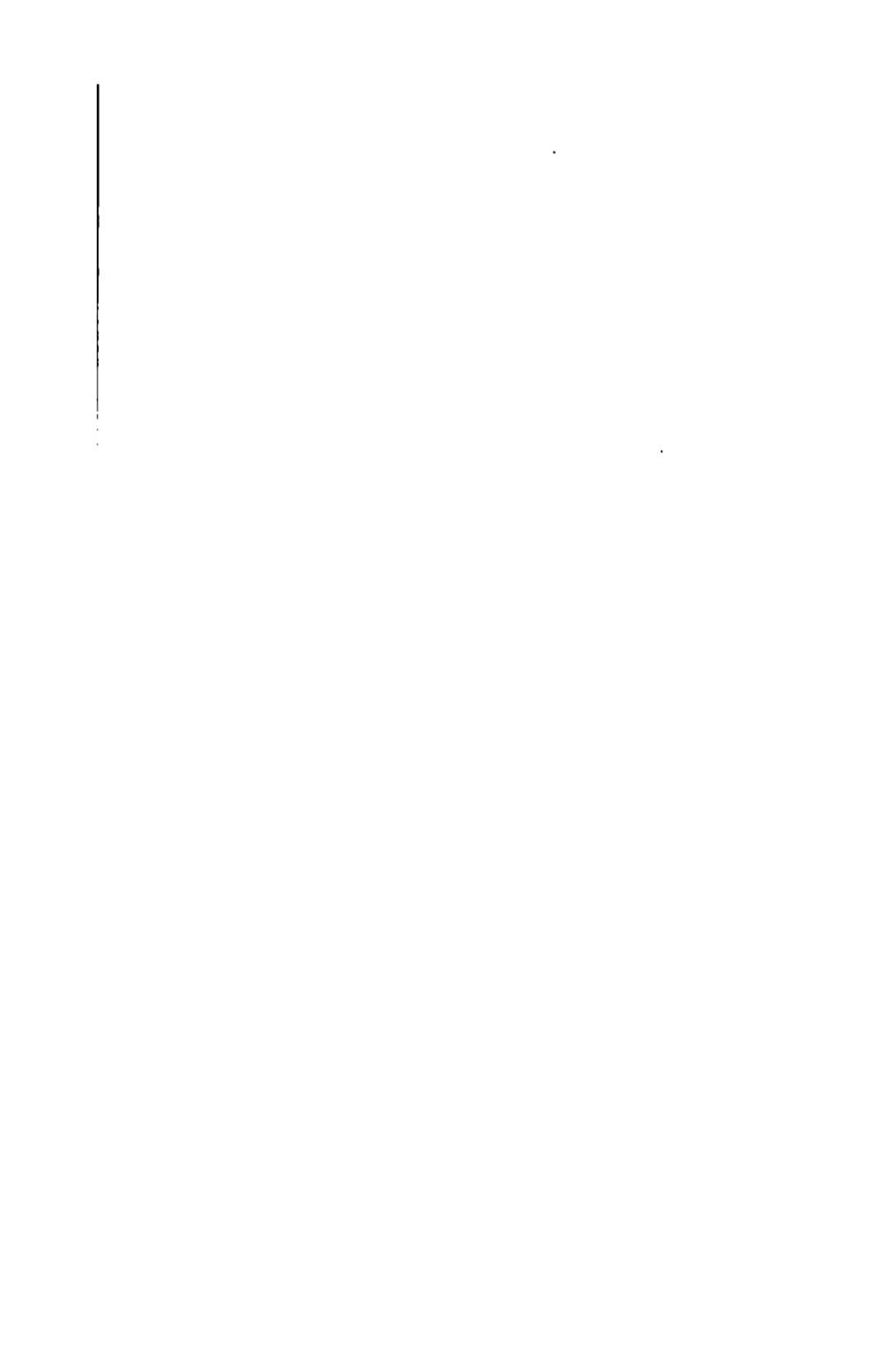
“THE MODEL OUTLINE.”

I have ventured to give a specimen of a modern style of illumination, based upon *no principle* whatever which could furnish the student with any instructive hints, or enable him to produce original ideas of his own. As a whole, it represents snatches of ornamentations, jumbled together without order or arrangement, and vanishing at both ends into space.

Scrollwork, having neither *beginning, middle, or termination*, and presenting a series of flourishes, which may be said to give this class of outline a distinctive character, under the generic title of *Sign-boarding*. It is an attempt at imitating missal, bearing about the same relation to its prototype as the modern to the pure Gothic in architecture, or the ancient Rome of Augustus to that of the present day in civilisation.

De gustibus non disputandum est.

THE END



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